

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00

OMB-01 COME-00 AGR-05 /100 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7495

INFO USLO PEKING

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TAGS: PFOR, EAID, MA, CH

SUBJECT: MALAGASY MISSION VISITS PRC; SIGNS NEW ECONOMIC AGREE-
MENT: CHINESE STEP UP AID ACTIVITIES IN MADAGASCAR

REF: TANANARIVE A-059

1. HIGH-LEVEL MALAGASY DELEGATION HEADED BY TWO MEMBERS OF SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, LT. COL. JOEL RAKO-TOMALALA AND MAJ. FERDINAND JAOTOMBO, DEPARTED PEKING JULY 28 AFTER SIX-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO PRC AND SIGNATURE OF NEW "ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT," ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS. NO DETAILS OF NEW MALAGASY-PRC AGREEMENT AS YET REPORTED IN MADAGASCAR, BUT MALAGASY MISSION APPARENTLY RECEIVED RED-CARPET WELCOME IN PRC. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS, THEY WERE RECEIVED AT AIRPORT BY PRC DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KOU MOU AND FOREIGN MINISTER KIAO KOUAN HOUA, TAKEN ON USUAL COOKE'S TOUR OF CHINESE COMMUNES AND FACTORIES, AND WERE GUESTS OF HONOR AT STATE BANQUET HOSTED BY KOU JULY 23.

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2. IN EXCHANGE OF SPEECHES AT BANQUET, KOU EFFUSIVELY CONGRATULATED NEW MALAGASY PRESIDENT DIDIER RATSIRAKA, DENOUNCED RIVALRY OF "THE TWO SUPERPOWERS" FOR HEGEMONY IN INDIAN OCEAN, THEN DEVOTED MUCH OF SPEECH TO SCATHING ATTACK ON "ONE SUPERPOWER (CLEARLY THE SOVIET UNION) WHICH SEEKS BY A THOUSAND AND ONE MEANS TO FAN INTERNAL CONFLICTS IN ANGOLA." RAKOTOMALALA, IN REPLY, STRESSED "REVOLUTIONARY, ANTI-IMPERIALIST" POLICIES OF GOMR AND EXPRESSED CONVICTING VISIT OF MALAGASY MISSION WOULD CONTRIBUTE "TO STRENGTHEN THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN THE WORLD."

3. IN MALAGASY ACCOUNTS OF MISSION TO PRC, THEIR DELEGATION WAS TERMED "ECONOMIC MISSION." IN ADDITION TO RAKOTOMALALA AND JAOTOMBO, OTHER MEMBERS WERE: FRANCOIS D'ASSISE INDRANO, SEC GEN OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLAN, AUBERT ANDRIANTAVY, SEC GEN OF MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND JEAN RAZAFINDRASOAVA, DIRECTOR OF BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION. COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION UNDERSCORES MAIN PURPOSE OF SEEKING FURTHER ECONOMIC AID.

4. EMBASSY COMMENTS: VISIT OF MALAGASY MISSION TO PRC AND SIGNATURE OF NEW PRC-MALAGASY COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOLLOWS CLOSELY ON HEELS OF CEREMONY IN MADAGASCAR JULY 5 IN WHICH CHINESE TURNED OVER \$2,450,000 WORTH OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT TO GOMR ON TEN-YEAR NO-INTEREST CREDIT (REPAIR). IN PAST YEAR PRC HAS NOTABLY STEPPED UP PACE OF ITS ACTIVITY IN MADAGASCAR, WITH "TECHNICAL MISSION" OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER VISITING NEARLY EVERY MONTH. FROM MALAGASY AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS PRC HAS AGREED "IN PRINCIPLE" TO EXTEND FURTHER ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AID IN FIELD OF SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE AND TO UNDERTAKE AT LEAST ONE MAJOR ROAD PROJECT, MOST LIKELY CONSTRUCTION OR REHABILITATION OF KEY ROAD FROM TANANARIVE TO PORT OF TAMATAVE. ACCORDING TO ROAD ENGINEERS HERE CONSTRUCTION OF ENTIRELY NEW ROAD FROM TANANARIVE TO TAMATAVE, IF DONE BY WESTERN CONTRACTORS, WOULD COST AT LEAST \$50-60 MILLION. REHABILITATION OF EXISTING, ALMOST IMPASSABLE ROAD WOULD PROBABLY COST LESS THAN HALF THAT, BUT STILL BE VERY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAJOR PROJECT. CHINESE ARE NOW AMONG THE MOST ACTIVE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS IN MADAGASCAR, AND SEEM CLEARLY TO HAVE SURPASSED SOVIETS IN ACTIVITIES HERE.
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